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### REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed on October 19, 2005 wherein Claims 1-7 and 9-17 were rejected. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended and Claims 1-7 and 9-17 remain pending.

### Claim Objections

On page 2 of the Office Action, Claim 12 was objected to due to a typographical error. Claim 12 has been amended to address the claim objection.

### Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 12-16 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Ito et al in view of Wachi et al. On page 5 of the Office Action Claims 1-7 and 9-11 were rejected under Ito et al. in view of Andersen et al. and Wachi et al.

Applicants have amended the claims to better describe the present invention. Independent Claims 1, 7, and 12 now include claim elements directed to an oxygen sensor having a discrete on and off output. Ito et al., Wachi et al., and Andersen et al. are silent with respect to a discrete switching oxygen sensor. The Examiner has cited element 15 of Ito et al. as a discrete oxygen sensor. Applicants object to this characterization, as element 15 is not described as a switching oxygen sensor. The cited art does not teach or suggest the present invention.

If the Examiner relies on personal knowledge that the operation of the apparatus of the present invention is obvious in light of the cited art, Applicants respectfully request support for this assertion in the form of an affidavit that shall be subject to contradiction or explanation by the affidavits of the Applicant and other persons under 37 C.F.R. 1.104 (d)(2).

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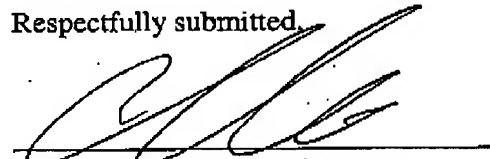
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Conclusion

The entire Office Action dated October 19, 2005 has been carefully reviewed, and this response is submitted as being fully responsive thereto. In view of the preceding remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-7 and 9-17 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If the Examiner believes that personal contact would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is requested to call the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

If for some reason a fee needs to be paid, as well as one-month extension fee please charge Deposit Account No. 07-0960 for the fees, which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,



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